

Mother Denies Soviet Claim *Quincy Man Defector?*

Associated Press

MOSCOW — A Soviet newspaper published Tuesday what it said was an article by a former agent of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency named John Smith, who purportedly spied for the Americans in the armed forces and Defense Ministry of India.

The newspaper Literary Gazette said Smith was from Quincy, Mass., now is a Soviet citizen living and working in Moscow. The U.S. Embassy here said it never heard of him.

The news agency, Tass, even before the Literary Gazette appeared, summarized the article, the burden of which was that Smith and his wife carried out operations in India some time after 1950. It did not say what became of Mrs. Smith.

The career of John Smith, described by Tass, closely resembles that of a John D. Smith whose mother, Mrs. Thomas Kantola of Braintree, Mass., said: "That's not my boy. He works for the government, but I can't say more."

In Washington, the State Department confirmed that a John Discoe Smith worked for it in the 1950s, but disclaimed any knowledge that he has defected to the Soviet Union.

Press Officer Robert J. McCloskey said Smith, now 41, was a communications clerk with the department from Oct. 29, 1950, to Dec. 29, 1959, when he resigned for what he said were personal reasons.

McCloskey said there is no record that Smith "worked for anyone other than the Dept. of State as a communications clerk," and "there is no reason to think he was ever employed by the CIA."

Tass said Smith revealed names of CIA operatives in India and told of "bugging" the code room in the embassy of an underdeveloped nation friendly to the Soviet Union.

"Smith writes that the CIA had its agents among high-placed officers of the staff of the Indian army and in the Indian Defense Ministry," Tass reported. "John Smith declared that his wife told him about many secret agents of the CIA among high-ranking Indian military officers."

There was a possibility that the unveiling of "John Smith" was part of a Soviet campaign to convince readers that American activities in India were such as to make believable a CIA involvement in the defection earlier this year of Svetlana Alliluyeva, Stalin's daughter. That event provoked an angry Soviet campaign against the CIA in which Moscow repeatedly charged that U.S. agents not only spirited Mrs. Alliluyeva out of India but had a hand in writing her memoirs.

The Soviet press on several occasions claimed the

Alliluyeva defection was part of a CIA campaign to discredit the Soviet system at a time when the Communist party was celebrating its 50th anniversary in power.

The "Smith story" coincided with a claim of the official Communist East German news agency, ADN, that a man alleged to be a Soviet intelligence officer, who defected to the United States recently, was in reality a figure in a "large-scale anti-Soviet provocation" dreamed up by the CIA.

The man in question is Lt. Col. Yevgeny Y. Runge, whose defection was credited with the arrest of four spies in West Germany last week. ADN said the man really was "an unscrupulous



JOHN D. SMITH
... in 1951 (UPI)

criminal called Eugen Runge" who originally fled East Berlin to West Germany in 1955 and returned last March.

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